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Public Comment Sought to Inform Malloys Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary Designation

Status of the Designation

On September 16, 2015 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a Notice of Intent to consider designating Malloys Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary. The area encompasses historic shipwrecks of national significance and features a host of archaeological, recreational, historical, cultural, educational and environmental qualities. Nearly 200 known vessels span from the Revolutionary War through the present, and include the remains of the largest "Ghost Fleet" of World War I wooden steamships built for the U.S. Emergency Fleet, which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Through a community-based effort, this Maryland treasure in Charles County would become the first national marine sanctuary in the state of Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and the first new designation in more than two decades. For more information visit: dnr.maryland.gov/malloysbay.

Public Meetings

NOAA is seeking public input on how the site should best be used and managed. To learn more about the nomination and designation process, and to voice your support, questions, or concerns, you are encouraged to attend one of the following public meetings.

Wednesday, November 4, 2015
Charles County Government Building
200 Baltimore Street
La Plata, Maryland

Tuesday, November 10, 2015
Annapolis Maritime Museum
723 2nd Street
Annapolis, Maryland

Both sessions will begin with an open house and poster session from **6:30 to 7:00 pm**, followed by an official program and public comments from **7:00 to 9:00 pm**.

More Opportunities to Provide Input

Your input will help NOAA and the State in moving forward with the designation process and in developing the draft environmental impact statement and proposed management plan, including developing sanctuary boundaries.

If you cannot attend a meeting in-person, you can follow instructions to submit written comments by any of the following methods:

Electronic:

Submit electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal (<https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-25510>). Click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Mail:

Paul Orlando, Regional Coordinator
Northeast and Great Lakes Region
410 Severn Ave, Suite 207-A
Annapolis, MD 21403

Scan for more information:

